

ParkLife

A MIAMI-DADE PARKS PUBLICATION

Mar / Apr 2008

www.miamidade.gov/parks

Enriching Your Life
Through Natural, Cultural and
Recreational Experiences

The Green Issue

Go Native!

Landscaping with Native Plants

EcoAdventures

Your Link to the Great Outdoors

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY





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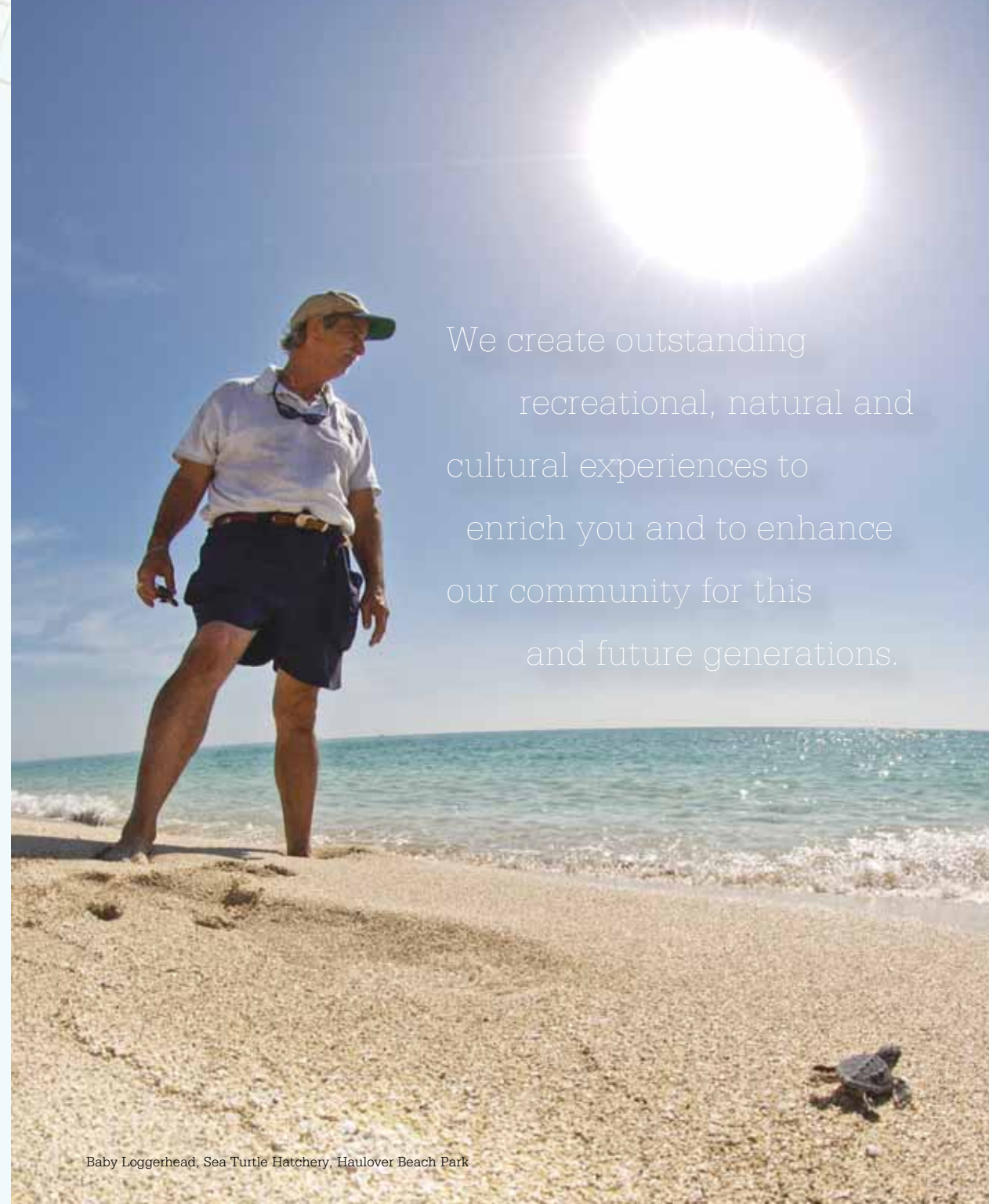


Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department has received accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Call (305) 755-7848 or (305) 755-7980 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days advance notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.



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We create outstanding
recreational, natural and
cultural experiences to
enrich you and to enhance
our community for this
and future generations.

V E N I , V I D I , V E R D E . . .

PARKS BY THE NUMBERS

13,320

Acres managed by
Miami-Dade Parks

50

Percentage of acreage of
Miami-Dade Parks that is
environmentally sensitive
or threatened natural
areas requiring protections
and conservation

259

Number of parks managed by
the Miami-Dade County Park
and Recreation Department

6

Number of nature centers
located in Miami-Dade Parks

42

Parks that received 3,700
trees planted as part of
\$1.5 million funding from
Capital Outlay Reserve Funds

80

Number of nature preserves
managed by Miami-Dade
Parks Natural Areas
Management Division

5

Number of volunteer
workdays offered in
March and April to help
restore natural areas in
Miami-Dade County

2

Marinas operated by
Miami-Dade Parks that
have received certification
of Clean Marina by the
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

It is not hard to imagine an organization which began as a tree planting program 80 years ago would still be committed to efforts that are green. In this issue of Parklife, you will read about the programs and initiatives of Miami-Dade Parks dedicated to preserving natural areas and providing green spaces for you and your family to enjoy.

However, this commitment reaches beyond just providing beautiful green and blue spaces. It is part of the standard operating procedures of the Miami-Dade Parks Department. The Marina Division actively recycles used oil, oil filters and monofilament fishing line. Administrative offices recycle paper and use only paper with recycled content. Our Kendall Warehouse and Shops recycles tires, batteries, oil filters, used oil, and toner and ink cartridges. Throughout the Department, we recycle cardboard, florescent bulbs, turn tree trimmings into mulch, and

carpool. In fact, Parklife is printed on paper from sustainable forests using vegetable inks further reducing the carbon footprint on the community.

But, all this just scratches the surface of what we have planned for the future. Through the Open Space Master Plan, new initiatives regarding building design and construction materials will reduce energy and water consumption, and serve as models for sustainable development County-wide. The new Open Space Master Plan envisions connecting communities through a public realm of parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, greenways, waterways and streets. These connections will form a green framework that will enhance the overall quality of life for residents and visitors, preserve and protect parks and open space and make Miami-Dade the kind of community where residents want to live, employers want to do business and tourists want to visit.

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front cover:
Lilypad, Fruit & Spice Park

back cover:
images of Miami-Dade Parks
photo montage



MANAGING THE NATURAL AREAS

by Jane Griffin Dozier

Example of vine coverage on hardwood hammock trees
Photos courtesy of Natural Areas Management



Amid the roadways, traffic jams, parking lots, shopping centers, and endless development that is part of our everyday life here in South Florida, there lies a part of the landscape that too few know: our natural areas. These are the pine rocklands, tropical hardwood hammocks, and coastal and freshwater wetlands that contribute to the uniqueness and beauty of this part of the country. Around the turn of the century, when South Florida was experiencing its first of many land booms, pine rocklands spread out in vast expanses over the Miami Rock Ridge, interspersed with island-like hardwood hammocks, and sloping (ever so slightly) into seemingly endless glades. Sadly and startling, less than 2% of this County's original forests remain, making their preservation that much more crucial. These natural areas contain numerous rare plant species, and are critical to native wildlife, including migratory birds.

The Natural Areas Management Division (NAM) of the Miami-Dade County Park & Recreation Department not only knows these areas up close and in person, but is responsible for restoration and management of the County's 80 nature preserves. Created in 1990, NAM was expanded greatly after Hurricane Andrew devastated southern Miami-Dade County in 1992, severely impacting more than 80% of the County's forest preserves.

Prior to Hurricane Andrew, Miami-Dade County's forests were already in serious decline due to the invasion of over 150 species of exotic (non-native) plants. Exotic plants invade natural areas and seriously interfere with the natural processes of forest growth by crowding out native plants, and disrupting storm recovery and natural fire cycles. When Hurricane Andrew

hit in 1992, it ripped the tops off mature hammock trees, leaving opportunistic exotic vegetation (particularly vines) to spread further into the natural areas. The storm also decimated the canopy species of the Pine Rocklands, the Dade County slash pine. Yet, what once seemed like a daunting and overwhelming task, the restoration of these natural areas by NAM has achieved great success. NAM's restoration efforts have received state and national recognition from organizations

such as the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Native Plant Society.

Approximately 5,200 acres of native forest and wetland occur in Miami-Dade's 13,000-acre park system. This includes 1,007 acres of globally-endangered Pine Rockland and 422 acres of upland hardwood forest, including State-endangered rockland hammock forest. If you're familiar with the County's parks, you'll know that this includes parks such as the Deering Estate at Cutler, Matheson Hammock, Larry and Penny

Thompson Park, Bill Sadowski Park, and Greynolds Park.

In addition to managing the natural areas within the County's park system, NAM is also responsible for the restoration and management of approximately 16,000 acres acquired by the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. The EEL Program purchases land from willing sellers, and in some cases, has added to existing Parks natural areas. Such is the case with Castellow Hammock, a well-known site for bird watchers. Here, the EEL Program has been able to double the size of the natural area that is now in public ownership. Presently, the EEL Program is the funding source for the majority

"The Natural Areas Management Division (NAM) of the Miami-Dade County Park & Recreation Department not only knows these areas up close and in person, but is responsible for restoration and management of the County's 80 nature preserves."



of land management and restoration activities within the natural areas of Miami-Dade County, including areas owned by Parks. Both NAM and EEL actively pursue grants to assist with restoration projects and sustain the County's management funds.

Currently, NAM has more than 50 employees, which includes six field crews, biologists, and a GIS professional. The majority of work that the field crews do involves the eradication of exotic plants. Loss of natural areas to exotic plant invasion is second only to loss of natural areas to development. Without the biological "checks and balances" (that is, the natural predators) present in their native homelands, there is nothing to stop these exotics from taking over southern Florida's forests and wetlands. The control of exotic plants is considered one of the most important elements in the management of Miami-Dade's natural habitats. Make no mistake about it --- these exotic plants can be relentless! The work that NAM crews do to rid our natural areas of these invaders is extremely labor intensive, and the transformations they make happen are often sources of amazement among land managers.

NAM also has staff trained to assist Florida Division of Forestry personnel on prescribed fires and wildfires that occur on Park and EEL properties. A prescribed fire is an intentionally-set, closely supervised fire that is ignited only under a specific set of "prescribed" conditions. Fire is a critical management component for some plant communities in South Florida, especially pine rocklands. If not for fire, sun-loving pineland plants would eventually be replaced by invading native and exotic trees and shrubs. Eventually, the great diversity of pineland plant species would be reduced, and the wildlife that relies upon pinelands as their habitat would vanish. Pineland plants are adapted to fire, and some even depend upon fire to aid in seed germination. After a burn, pineland plants quickly sprout new growth, and the pineland wildflowers burst into bloom in a beautiful array of colors. There is also a safety advantage in prescribed burning. Ideally, prescribed fires are set on a three-to-five year cycle,

which helps eliminate high fuel load buildup and therefore decreases the chance of a dangerous wildfire becoming a threat to homes, schools and businesses.

In an effort to preserve and manage the many rare plant species in these habitats, NAM and EEL work closely in a partnership with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden to conduct monitoring and research at many Parks and EEL sites. Fairchild has initiated rare plant mapping and monitoring, propagated several extremely rare plant species and reintroduced them to select natural area sites, conducted studies on management techniques and effects, and even provided volunteers for special projects involving rare species. Through this partnership, invaluable information has been provided to land managers, and conservation efforts have been furthered.

NAM perseveres in trying to in instill a sense of natural heritage in the County's citizens, especially among our youth. The forests and wetlands of Miami-Dade County are part of who we are as South Floridians. They're teeming with life, and waiting to be explored. David Fairchild, a noted plant explorer and the man for whom Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden was named, once said, "How often, alas, book schooling drowns the children who love nature, with a Niagara of words and the word is not the thing..." While NAM certainly does not dismiss book schooling, this "thing," nature itself, needs to be experienced. It needs to be seen, felt, smelled, and heard --- absorbed.

This is a significant reason why NAM initiated a Volunteer Workday Program in 1995. Together, NAM and the EEL Program hold several workdays each year. Through these Volunteer Workdays, citizens learn of the importance of native habitats and their restoration, and are given an opportunity to assist in forest and park management activities. Volunteers are largely composed of school groups, scout groups, and church groups, indicating that the program reaches local youth, a critical segment of the

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
3/08/08 9 a.m. - noon	Kendall Indian Hammocks (Air-Potato)	11345 SW 79 St.	4/12/08 9 a.m. - noon	Kendall Indian Hammocks (Air-Potato)	11345 SW 79 St.
3/22/08 9 a.m. - noon	Camp Matecumbe Pineland (Cleanup)	11400 SW 137 Ave.	4/19/08 9 a.m. - noon	Baynanza (Cleanup)	Various locations – Call 305-372-6784
3/28/08 8 - 11 a.m.	Ned Glenn Preserve (Birding, Nature Walk & Cleanup)	SW 188 St. & 87 Ave.	For more information 305.257.0933 ext.227		

population in NAM's efforts to instill an awareness of, and appreciation for, South Florida's unique plant communities.

These Volunteer Workdays not only allow the public to participate in the natural area restoration process, but also to interact with County land managers, thereby becoming better aware of restoration challenges. Face to face interaction and shoulder to shoulder participation is undoubtedly one of the best ways to help people understand and support NAM's

mission to preserve, protect, and restore Miami-Dade County's unique natural areas. Each participant receives a bit of education, and a sense of contribution and accomplishment toward saving the County's natural resources. Students can even gain community service hours for their time, so the program provides academic incentive to participate as well. Many volunteers regularly return to these events again and again. Even if you can't help out at a workday, visit a park with a natural area to experience a bit of South Florida's beauty, history, and wonder.

Greynolds Park

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation

LOVE•IN

In Concert

Spencer Davis Group
known for such Top 10 hits as "Gimme Some Lovin'," "Somebody Help Me," "I'm A Man," and "Keep On Runnin'."

Sunday, May 18, 2008 • 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, District 4, and Miami-Dade Parks invite you groovy guys and gals to come crash at our pad for the far out and totally solid **GREYNOLDS PARK LOVE•IN**

Bring the entire family and enjoy:
*Rock Concerts • Beat Poetry • Folk Music • Vintage Volkswagen Bug and Muscle Cars on Display
 60's-Style Vendors • Kid's Corner (arts and crafts and fun activities) • Food Vendors and More*

Free Admission:
 (\$6 per vehicle parking fee. Coolers are not allowed.)
Greynolds Park 17530 W. Dixie Highway, N. Miami Beach
305-945-3425 • www.greynoldslovein.org

Call 305-755-7848, or 305-755-7980(TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days advance notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.

A REDLAND GEM:

Castellow Hammock Park

by
Roger L. Hammer

In July 1900, James S. Castellow filed a claim on 160-acres in what is now known as the Redland Farming District. He began carrying citrus trees from the town of Cutler, near Biscayne Bay, to his homestead and became one of the earliest citrus farmers in Florida. He built a small house out of pines that he harvested and had milled by Wellington Blood Hainlin, whose sawmill was located at the northwest corner of Redland Road and present-day Hainlin Mill Drive.

Hugh Matheson, Jr., who had purchased the property in the 1950s, originally offered to trade the land for Kendall Wayside Park along US1. Although tempting, one of the early goals of the Parks Department was to preserve open spaces along US1, so the land trade deal was refused. The property was later purchased in 1962, which included the tropical hardwood forest known by tree snail collectors and botanists as Castellow Hammock. In 1974 Castellow Hammock was opened as a Dade County park and was one of the first environmental education centers in Miami-Dade Parks.

Today, the park is well known to bird and butterfly enthusiasts, botanists, and those who simply enjoy being close to nature. And because the park is such a supreme place to see birds, it is included as a destination along the 2000-mile Great Florida Birding Trail established by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



A tropical hardwood forest covers most of the park, and a half-mile self-guided nature trail offers visitors a view of the forest interior. Over 120 bird species have been reported from the park, along with 70 species of butterflies. A large hummingbird & butterfly garden graces the front of the park, and has become a focal point for visitors with a desire to see hummingbirds and a wide variety of butterflies.

Castellow Hammock Park naturalists offer a variety of educational classes, including Hummingbird & Butterfly Gardening, Backcountry Fishing Workshop, Outdoor Skills, Landscaping With Native Plants, and a program on South Florida owls that corresponds with a nighttime walk in the hammock to view Eastern screech owls. Park staff also offers guided EcoAdventure tours, which include canoe trips, kayak fishing excursions, biking in Everglades National Park, and biking through the historic Redland Farming District. For children, the park offers a summer nature day camp as well as a weeklong, sleepover EcoAdventure camp.

If you've not visited Castellow Hammock Park, you're missing one of the best-kept secrets in Miami-Dade Parks.

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK PARK
22301 SW 162 Avenue
Miami, FL 33170
(305) 242-7688
castellowhammock@miamidade.gov

Parklife www.miamidade.gov/parks

SEA TURTLE NESTING AND RELOCATION



Each summer, April to September, Florida beaches host the largest gathering of nesting sea turtles in the U.S. Sea turtles once roamed the oceans by the millions but over the past few centuries, the demand for sea turtle meat, eggs, shell, leather, oil and loss of habitat due to urban development along the coasts have greatly reduced their numbers.

The Sea Turtle Nesting and Relocation Program began after the completion of a comprehensive beach re-nourishment project 30 years ago when the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department instituted a new program to encourage the nesting of the loggerhead, green and leatherback turtles, three species which had not reproduced successfully on our beaches for decades. Under the close supervision of Miami-Dade Parks' Beach Operations staff, which runs the Turtle Program, the nesting rate has gone from 0 nest sites in 1979 to 363 in 2003.

The staff also supervises all nesting activity along almost 20 miles of Atlantic beachfront, from beaches on Key Biscayne to Golden Beach, where there are nesting areas favored by these ancient creatures.

The Sea Turtle Nesting and Relocation Program released over 41,000 new baby loggerhead, green and leatherback turtles in 1998 making this one of the most efficient conservation efforts of its kind in Florida. This achievement is a victory over egg poaching by humans and animals, destruction of native habitat, and the constant disturbance of bright night lights which disorient the hatchlings and draw them to populated street areas, where they soon perish.

This summer you can help save these sea creatures by participating in turtle releases during the height of the hatching season. Since 1980, more than 537,134 endangered sea turtles have been hatched and released through the Miami-Dade Parks Sea Turtle Nesting and Relocation Program.

SEA TURTLE HATCHLING RELEASE

Haulover Beach Park
\$5. 9 - 10 p.m. Tue. & Wed.
10800 Collins Ave., Miami Beach
(305) 947-3525

Crandon Park Visitors' and Nature Center
\$5. 8:30 - 10 p.m. Fri. & Sat.
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
(305) 361-6767

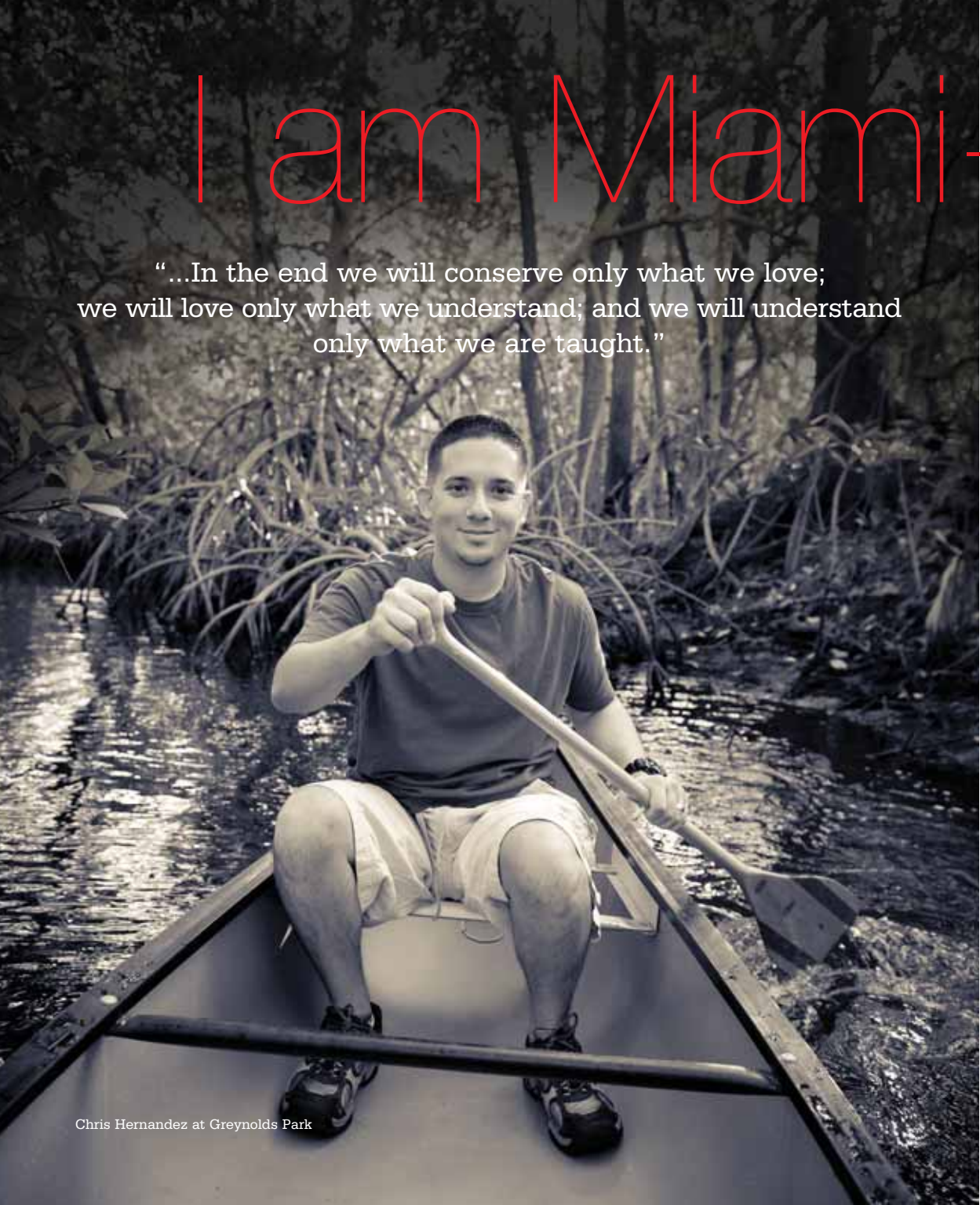
Please make reservations in the beginning of July for presentations and releases in July, August and September.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle Hatchling (evaluated)
The term evaluated refers hatchlings dug out of a nest being evaluated for the success rate.

I am Miami-Dade Parks

"...In the end we will conserve only what we love;
we will love only what we understand; and we will understand
only what we are taught."



Chris Hernandez at Greynolds Park



Chris Hernandez wasn't always the active outdoorsman he is today. It wasn't until a friend in high school convinced him to attend some environmental events that he was introduced to the natural side of Miami. One of the first events in which he participated was a volunteer clean-up day offered through Miami-Dade Parks Natural Areas Management Division. "We were removing invasive exotics plants from the hardwood hammock in Matheson Hammock Park," said Hernandez. "I remember walking into that hammock for the first time and it feeling surreal. I felt as if I had stepped into a storybook. I never had been exposed up until that point to the natural world. The smells, sights, sounds of that forest were incredible. I knew from that moment on that I had to do whatever it took to help protect this magical place and to have other people experience what I had experienced that day. It was there that I started learning about these places, becoming familiar with the flora and fauna, and also learning about the history of these lands."

This experience spurred him on to learn more about the environment and the

natural spaces within the community. While completing his degree in Environmental Studies at Florida International University, he worked as a field educator at the Everglades Education Center for the Audubon Society of Florida, the state office of the National Audubon Society.

In March of 2003, Hernandez joined Miami-Dade Parks as a Naturalist for



EcoAdventures, a program that offers naturalist-guided excursions for nature lovers and sports enthusiasts that combine adventure, recreation, natural history and the opportunity to connect with the natural environment. You may be asking, what exactly is a naturalist? "I always tell kids that anyone can be a naturalist. It's not someone who necessarily has scientific training," stated Hernandez. "Some of the earliest naturalists were John Muir who founded

Sierra Club and helped establish Yosemite National Park, John James Audubon who documented the Birds of North America in paintings, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, among others. These were people that not only made observations on nature, but fought long hard battles to conserve and preserve the natural world. Nowadays, a naturalist is becoming a serious profession with corresponding training and certification courses in interpretation. A naturalist takes what is intangible in the natural world and makes it alive for people."

Hernandez says the key to becoming a skilled naturalist is to become actively involved in the natural world. "Read all you can and become a careful observer of nature. A background in science, history, or teaching won't hurt either." But for me, there is a saying that sums it up the best: In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."

I am Miami-Dade Parks is a recurring article that will highlight volunteers, staff and participants in our recreational, natural and cultural programs.

THE NEW PARK



AND OPEN

photos from
Miami-Dade Parks
Archives



SPACE SYSTEM



MASTER PLAN

Miami-Dade County is one of the most vibrant regions in the United States with international business, an active arts community, a tropical climate and a landscape that includes beaches, the Everglades, Pine Rocklands and Biscayne Bay. With all that is beautiful and lush in this region, making it a great place to live, there are also livability challenges. Miami-Dade County is facing the same population growth issues as many other metropolitan areas, a diminished quality of life, increased congestion, declining recreation and conservation open space, visual blight, limited transportation options and social inequities. With the population expected to increase by three million residents in the year 2025 and up to 4.5 million by 2060, additional pressure will be placed on an already stressed physical, social and economic environment.

The Park and Open Space System Master Plan envisions that great parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, streets, greenways, blueways, and trails can form the framework for a more livable and sustainable community. Imagine a Miami-Dade County where you could walk or ride your bike on a tree-lined sidewalk safely from your home to a local park to everyday errands to work to a café for dinner with friends and back home again. Such a plan cannot be considered as an isolated system, but one that is integrated into the overall fabric of the community and one that will create the kind of place where residents want to live, employers want to do business, and tourists want to visit.

Since the last Open Space Master Plan in 1969, Miami-Dade County has developed and managed over 12,000 acres of designed green space and natural areas that include places with everything from playgrounds to ball fields to cultural centers to protected areas. Forty years ago, our parks were built for car-dependent populations and suburban sprawl. Over the years, development patterns changed due to a growing population, the advancement of smart growth and new urbanism policies. To help address these challenges, the Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department has developed a new Park and Open Space System Master Plan establishing a policy framework to guide future park system development and stewardship for the next fifty to one-hundred years. This plan is about developing a

community where every person feels connected to and inspired by public places they inhabit everyday.

The new Park and Open Space System Master Plan began with the first Great Park Summit 2006 when the Miami-Dade County community engaged in a dialogue about creating a sustainable South Florida through the lens of a park system. Over 400 people

"IMAGINE A MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WHERE YOU COULD WALK OR RIDE YOUR BIKE ON A TREE-LINED SIDEWALK SAFELY FROM YOUR HOME TO A LOCAL PARK TO EVERYDAY ERRANDS TO WORK TO A CAFÉ FOR DINNER WITH FRIENDS AND BACK HOME AGAIN. IMAGINE A PARK LIFE".

attended the event and left with an inspiring call to action for innovative stewardship of South Florida's public realm. The plan envisions connecting communities through the public realm of parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, greenways, waterways and streets. These connections will form a green framework that will enhance the overall quality of life for residents and visitors, preserve and protect parks and open space, and achieve a strong position in the local economy.

The Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department will unveil the new Park and Open Space System Master Plan at the second Great Park Summit March 14, 2008. This plan will guide the development of a green infrastructure which refers to a network of connected, high quality, multifunctional open spaces, corridors and the links in between that provide multiple benefits to people and wildlife. The Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department is excited to say that we are doing our best to create a more livable, accessible and beautiful public realm for the future of Miami-Dade County where parks are an integral part of your life.

THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

EQUITY: Every resident should be able to enjoy the same quality of public facilities and services regardless of income, age, race, ability, or geographic location.

ACCESS: Every Resident should be able to safely and comfortably walk, bike, drive and/or ride transit from their home to work, school, parks, shopping and community facilities.

BEAUTY: Every public space, including streets, parks, plazas and civic buildings should be designed to be as aesthetically pleasing as possible, and to complement the natural and cultural landscape.

MULTIPLE BENEFITS: Every single public action should generate multiple public benefits to maximize taxpayer dollars.

SEAMLESSNESS: Every element of the County, including neighborhoods, parks, natural areas, streets, civic centers and commercial areas, should be connected without regard to jurisdiction.

SUSTAINABILITY: Every action and improvement of the Park System, including facilities, programs, operations, and management should contribute to the economic, social and environmental prosperity of the County.

On February 1, in conjunction with Senator Javier Souto and members of the Wireless Miami-Dade Steering Committee, Mayor Carlos Alvarez launched the Wireless Miami-Dade Pilot Project at Tropical Park. The six-month pilot project, sponsored by Nortel, offers free wireless internet service. In the coming weeks, three additional Miami-Dade County regional parks, with the assistance of additional vendors, will begin to offer free wireless service. They include Tamiami Park (Motorola), Goulds Park (Wialan) and Amelia Earhart Park (Cisco). The Wireless Miami-Dade Pilot Project is the first of its kind in Miami-Dade County. Internet access at wireless parks are complemented by several Park and Recreation programs that offer a wide range of community classes, workshops and special events. At each of the four parks, residents and visitors can acquire wireless connectivity within the park's Wireless Internet Zone.

For more information visit
<http://www.miamidade.gov/mayor/wireless.asp>

Wireless Miami



March 13 & 14

Great Park Summit

2008

This two-day event marks the completion of the planning process for the new Park and Open Space System Master Plan, which will redefine the role of parks and open spaces and provide a framework for a sustainable future for South Florida.

Mayor Carlos Alvarez will host a Mayors' Dinner at the Deering Estate at Cutler on the evening of March 13 for the presentation of the South Florida Park Coalition Charter. The Mayors and Park Directors from all 35 municipalities will come together to learn how they can collaborate to achieve the common goal of a more livable and sustainable South Florida. This charter will promote greater city, county and federal collaboration and coordination, as well as help us move toward the common goal of seamless stewardship of public space in South Florida.

On March 14, the Great Park Summit will bring together elected officials, governmental administrators, environmental organizations, patrons of the arts, architecture and landscape architecture firms, and scholars at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden to share an inspirational vision for a livable South Florida through lectures, panel discussions and exhibitions. National leaders in public space advocacy will guide our discussions of how our park system can be a catalyst for a greener, healthier, more economically vibrant community.

TREE PLANTING

by Edith Torres

During the summer months, the staff of Miami-Dade Parks was busy planting over 3,700 trees of varying species, from flowering trees, to many native, sturdy trees such as live oak, adding much-needed tree canopy to South Florida and helping to restore some of the tree loss from the 2005 hurricane season. With \$1.5 million in funding from Capital Outlay Reserve Funds, approved by the Board of County Commission at the start of the 2007 fiscal year, Miami-Dade Parks has been able to provide substantial tree plantings at 42 park sites countywide changing the very look of many of these parks to a more beautiful and inviting place for people to gather and meet nature itself.

The tree plantings keep in line with the goals of the new Park and Open Space System Master Plan which uses trees as tools to enhance a community and make it a more sustainable, livable environment for the people that live there.

The parks that have received the trees vary in size and location, from just under an acre to as large as 40 acres and include: Ives Estates, Biscayne Gardens, Broadmoor, Gwen Cherry, Jefferson Reaves, Rocky Creek, Olinda, Highland Oaks, East Greynolds, Haulover, A.D. Barnes, Brothers to the Rescue, San Jacinto, Sunset, Snapper Creek, Crandon, R. Hardy Matheson, Naranja Lakes, Biscado, Palmland, Arvida, Continental, Deering Estate at Cutler, Chuck Pezoldt, Bailes Road, Homestead Bayfront, Kings Grant, Women's Park, Ruben Dario, McMillan, Kendall Soccer, Southern Estates, Tamiami, Wild Lime, Westwind Lakes, Kendall Green, Lago Mar, Tamiami Canal, North Trail, Country Lake, Country Club of Miami (South), Amelia Earhart.



Phenomenal Women

by Lisa Fernandez

For 20 years, men and women throughout Miami-Dade County have gathered to honor and recognize local outstanding women at the annual *In the Company of Women* celebration which has received national recognition from the National Association of Counties and the Southern Region of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Over the years, the event has honored such women pioneers as Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Gloria Estefan and Celia Cruz.

Spurred from a need to honor women from diverse backgrounds during a tumultuous time in Miami-Dade County and to help bring about unity within the community, *In the Company of Women* was established to celebrate all women in Miami-Dade County who have

exemplified Professional Development, Community Responsibility, Leadership and Vision, Contribution to Women's Progress, Promotion of Pluralism.

This year, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez will recognize outstanding women leaders with the Mayor's Pioneer and Rising Star Awards. The Pioneer Award will honor a woman who has proven leadership and dedication to Miami-Dade County for at least 20 years. The Rising Star Award will honor a woman who has demonstrated creativity and vision in addressing community issues within the past five years.

The evening of celebration features a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, and the

presentation of awards. Eight awards will be given to recognize the accomplishments of women in all careers. The awards include Outstanding Woman in the following areas: Arts and Entertainment, Business and Economics, Communications and Literature, Education and Research, Government and Law, Health and Human Services, Science and Technology, and Sports and Athletics.

On Wednesday, March 5, men and women will gather again at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens to recognize the women who have made great strides within Miami-Dade County to improve our quality of life and better our communities.

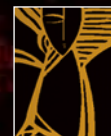
In the Company of Women

Wednesday, March 5, 2008
6:30 – 9 PM

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens
3251 South Miami Avenue

\$50 per person

For more information:
(305) 480-1717



Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, In The Company of Women

NEW DATES FOR 2008

Fairchild's 4th Annual INTERNATIONAL ORCHID festival

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
February 29
through
March 2, 2008
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Come to Fairchild and enjoy the most beautiful and best orchid show and sale in South Florida.

- 83 acres of lush tropical garden
- Lots of orchid vendors
- Educational orchid lectures and how-to demonstrations
- Walking tours of Fairchild's collections
- An American Orchid Society juried show presented by the Orchid Society of Coral Gables
- Wonderful food and entertainment
- The sculptures of Pop artist icon Roy Lichtenstein
- A Garden of Glass by Dale Chihuly in the Windows to the Tropics Conservatory
- \$250 prize for best in show display by an individual and a plant society
- The unmatched beauty of Fairchild

Tickets and information at www.fairchildgarden.org
Admission is free for Fairchild members and children 5 and under. Non-members: \$20 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens 65 and older and \$10 for children 6-17.

 FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

The Women's Park

by Lisa Fernandez

Dedicated in 1992, The Women's Park began as the dream of pioneer feminist Roxcy O'Neal Bolton, who envisioned a park and history gallery in honor of all the women of Miami-Dade County and their contributions to our community.

In the early 1990's a broad-based coalition of women leaders lobbied for the creation of the park. Then Miami-Dade County Mayor, the late Stephen P. Clark, gave his support, and the County Commission unanimously approved the resolution creating the park in June 1992 and a committee was formed to direct the park's development. The 15-acre lakeside park features a picnic pavilion, the Leona Ferguson Cooper children's playground and a time capsule to be opened in 2025. The time capsule contains historical materials from three prominent women of Florida: author Zora Neale Hurston, anthropologist Lydia Cabrera, and environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

The Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women's History Gallery at the Women's Park is a 6,000-square foot facility that opened November 4, 2000 with funding from the Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond program and Quality Neighborhoods Improvement Program and houses the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Hall, the Molly Turner Media Room, and the Bonnie Lano Rippingille Rotunda.

Recently the park has completed a walking path which circles the entire perimeter of the lake and new benches and picnic tables with grills have been added. A partnership with the Girls Scouts will include an ongoing gardening project for patrons to enjoy. Also in the works is a brand

new fence to surround the park with the side facing West Flagler Street featuring a site-specific art fence created by artist Lydia Rubio in partnership with Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places.

Beginning in April of 2008, a series of programs and events under the umbrella of *In the Company of Women* have been developed to continue celebrating women throughout the year. As part of programming, the Women's Park has developed an exhibition series in partnership with local institutions such as Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, New World School of the Arts, Miami Dade Public Schools, and the Women's History Coalition presented in the Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women's History Gallery which allows the community to reflect on the contributions of women. Other programs include a women's health fair, an ongoing educational partnership with Miami Dade Public Schools Ancestral Voices program, Women's History Coalition and Florida International University's Women's Studies Center, and a series of events that will lead up to *In the Company of Women* which honors the women of Miami-Dade County.

FOUNDERS

Honorable Bonnie Lano Rippingille
Roxcy O'Neal Bolton
Molly Turner
Diane Brant
Silvia Unzueta*

Leona Cooper
Monna Lighte
Katherine Fernandez Rundle
Dorothy Jenkins Fields
Colette McCurdy-Jackson*

State Rep. Elaine Gordon
Helen Miller
Dr. Patricia Clements
Teresa Zorrilla Clark
*HONORARY MEMBERS

March 15 – April 6, 2008

REFLECTIONS ON MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS

Opening Reception:

Saturday, March 15, 10am-5pm
Free and open to the public.
Reflections on Marjory Stoneman Douglas will explore the tireless efforts of Marjory Stoneman Douglas to protect the environment.

April 11 – May 25, 2008

IMAGES OF EMPOWERMENT Museum of Contemporary Art's Women on the Rise! program

Artwork by participants from the Museum of Contemporary Art's nationally acclaimed outreach program for at-risk teenage girls, *Women on the Rise!* will be featured in a special exhibition entitled *Images of Empowerment*.

Arts enrichment at the park offers a diversity of programming that includes visual art classes, art and music appreciation, dance and movement, literature, crafts and other cultural activities. The Women's Park provides hands-on classes and social activities for senior citizens every Thursday with the exception of the holiday season and summer. Participants can enjoy early morning yoga on the Hon. Carrie Meek Terrace overlooking the park's lake, learn how to draw and paint, join in on a musical sing-a-long or just relax while playing a game of dominoes with friends.



Images of Empowerment Exhibit 2007, Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women's History Gallery

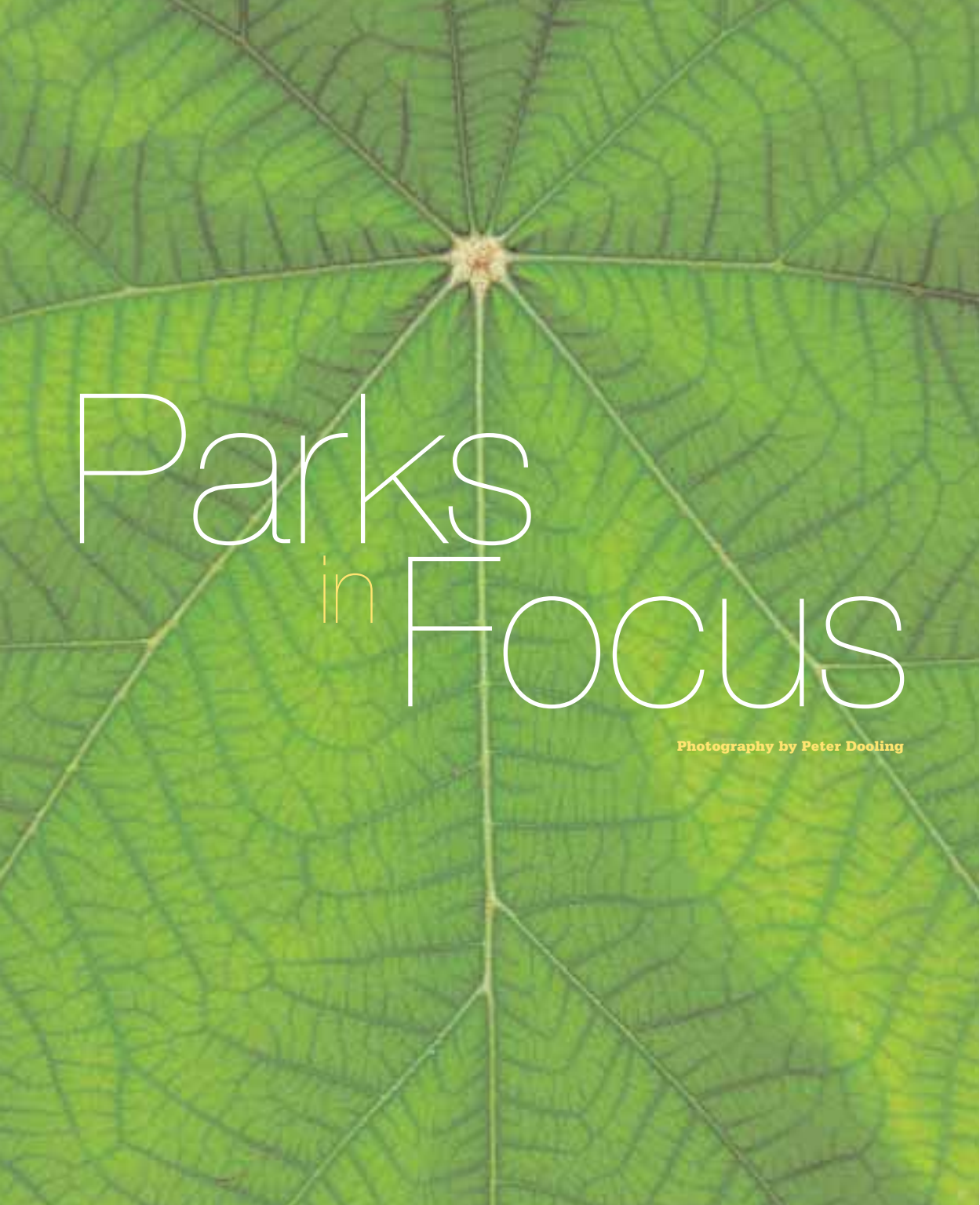
THE ROXCY O'NEAL BOLTON WOMEN'S HISTORY GALLERY

Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 10AM - 8PM and
Saturday – Monday, 10AM - 5PM
10251 West Flagler Street
(305) 480-1717

The Zoological Society of Florida Presents

Miami's most exotic party returns with a preview of our upcoming exhibit, Amazon and Beyond

Friday, March 7, 2008
Miami Metrozoo-
12400 SW 152 Street
For more information or to purchase tickets, call 305-255-5551 or visit www.fwtb.org



Parks *in* Focus

Photography by Peter Dooling

Bear Cut Preserve, Crandon Park

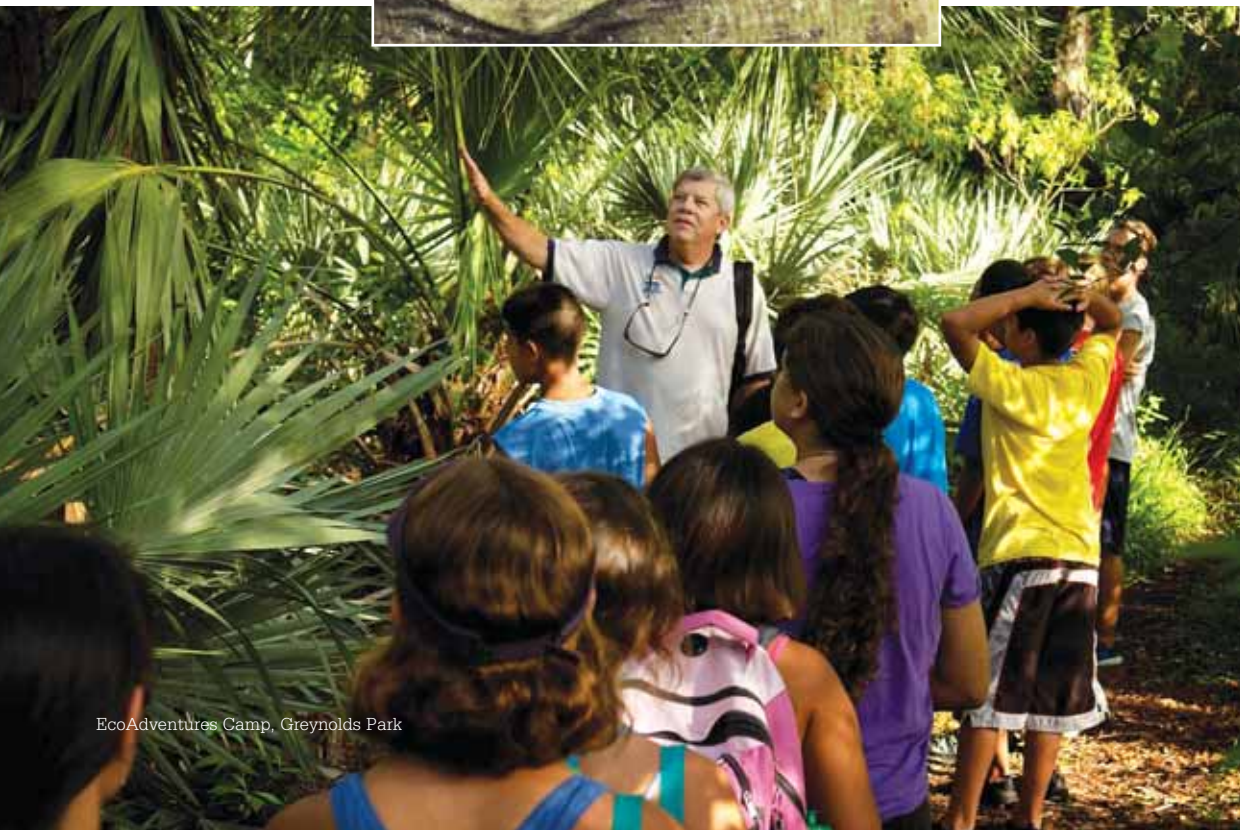


Aerial View, Biscayne Bay



Zebra Winged Butterfly, Fruit & Spice Park

Papaya Tree, Fruit & Spice Park



EcoAdventures Camp, Greynolds Park



Baby Alligator, Miami Metrozoo

GO NATIVE!

Landscaping with Native Plants

by Jane Griffin Dozier

WHAT ON EARTH?!

Remember that pretty little vine that you planted to trellis up the side of your fence, and then it suddenly grew into a plant of gargantuan proportion, and began taking over your yard? Yes, well, chances are it was an exotic (non-native) species. While many of the non-native plant species that make their way to South Florida can live here without causing trouble, others run amok, eventually wreaking havoc on our natural areas as they try to out-compete native species. They have no natural enemies here, so there is nothing to control their growth.

According to the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, an exotic plant species is one that was introduced to Florida, either purposefully or accidentally, from outside its native range. If that exotic becomes naturalized and begins expanding on its own into Florida's native plant communities, it's considered an invasive exotic species. Unfortunately, this has happened in South Florida to the detriment of our native natural areas, such as pine rocklands and tropical hardwood hammocks. Here in Miami-Dade County,

throughout Florida, and throughout all of the United States, local, state, and federal governments are spending millions of dollars annually to fight invasive exotics in efforts to save our natural areas. In fact, loss of native plant species to invasive exotics is second only to loss of native plant species to direct habitat destruction (such as bulldozing areas for housing developments, shopping centers, roadways, agriculture, etc.).

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Go native!!! So, what is a native plant species? A plant is considered a native of Florida if its natural range included Florida at the time of European contact (about 1500 A.D.). According to the Institute for Regional Conservation, South Florida is one of the most biologically diverse regions in North America. In Miami-Dade County alone, there are over 1,000 native plants. However, when all plants that are present here are taken into account, about 1/3 of the plants growing here in South Florida are non-native.

Native plant species are the best choices for 1) attracting wildlife to



American Beautyberry



Bahama Wild Coffee



Bahama Senna



Firebush



Locustberry



Manberry



Paradise Tree



Shiny-Leaved Wild Coffee

your yard; 2) conserving resources such as water because they require little or no water once established; 3) saving you time and money because they require less maintenance; and 4) promoting biodiversity.

There are many choices for attracting wildlife to your yard. If you're especially fond of butterflies, make sure you have larval host plants in your yard for those caterpillars. For example, the caterpillars of Julias, Zebra Longwings, and Gulf Fritillaries feed on corkystem passionflower. Caterpillars of the Atala butterfly feed on coontie, which is a cycad. The larval host plant for the Common Buckeye butterfly is wild petunia. Bahama Senna, with its bright yellow flowers, is the larval host plant for Orange-barred and Cloudless Sulphur butterflies. You should also have nectar plants for the butterflies, such as firebush or blue porterweed.

Birds like to have good cover, both in trees and in shrubs. Many of these plants provide fruits for the birds as well. Try planting paradise tree, Simpson stopper, white stopper,

satinleaf, dahoon holly, beautyberry, firebush, wild coffee, or locustberry. Then keep a lookout for smaller birds, such as warblers, especially during Spring and Fall migrations.

A great advantage of native plants is that they are already adapted to Florida's climate. Once established, native plants require little water, and in fact, little maintenance at all. (Think of the time you spend mowing and fertilizing a lawn.) In our current situation, with drought conditions in much of the state, and water restrictions being increased, it makes perfect ecological and economical sense to go native.

There are local nurseries that specialize in native plants and can help you make good choices for your home landscaping. In addition, some organizations such as the Florida Native Plant Society and Tropical Audubon hold special plant sale events. You can find out much more information about native plants and where to find them (so you can start putting them in), as well as what plants are considered invasive exotics (so you can start yanking them out), at the following websites:

- <http://dade.fnpschapters.org>
- www.regionalconservation.org (Take a look at "Natives for Your Neighborhood.")
- www.tropicalaudubon.org
- www.fleppc.org

ECOADVENTURES

Your Link To The Great Outdoors

Miami-Dade Parks Department's EcoAdventures offers outdoor recreation fun! Through EcoAdventures you can take part in activities that will help you learn new outdoor skills; learn about the South Florida environment and the need to be responsible stewards of the great outdoors.

EcoAdventures offers outdoor fieldtrips tailored to all abilities and skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned nature explorer, or a novice with a desire to learn, EcoAdventures can help you determine which programs will be best suited for you.

Go on a wildflower walk in the Everglades, kayak offshore Key Biscayne, canoe quiet backwaters, backpack into remote wilderness areas, camp overnight at pristine backcountry campsites, enjoy a day of kayak fishing with an expert guide, join a nighttime owl walk, bicycle through the Everglades or through the historic Redland, go star gazing, or even go snorkeling over a sunken wreck. These are just some of the more popular outdoor adventures offered to locals and tourists alike. EcoAdventures also offers team building outdoor experiences for County office workers who need a day to refresh their spirit and get some exercise.

As part of the mission of EcoAdventures, participants learn and experience the principles of "Leave No Trace," a national and international wilderness conservation ethic developed by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and the National Outdoor Leadership School. Its purpose is to teach those who love the outdoors techniques of reducing their impact on natural areas and enhancing their experience.

If you prefer to learn new skills through classroom experiences, EcoAdventures provides educational programs on Backcountry Fishing, Outdoor Skills for Women, Hummingbird & Butterfly Gardening, Landscaping with Native Plants, and Exploring the Everglades.

For children aged 11-14, EcoAdventures offers a weeklong sleepover EcoAdventure Camp, where participants will enjoy birdwatching, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, and other activities with skilled leaders.

So, if you have an adventurous spirit, and would like to see the real wild side of Miami, contact EcoAdventures and begin your own adventure!

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF LEAVE NO TRACE:

- PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE
- TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES
- DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY
- LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND
- MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS
- RESPECT WILDLIFE
- BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS



MIAMI-DADE PARKS ECOADVENTURES

Phone: (305) 365-3018
E-mail: ECOAdventures@miamidade.gov
Website: www.miamiecoadventures.org

Kayaking at Crandon

EcoAdventures is committed to the principles of Leave No Trace and to providing opportunities to share that commitment throughout our naturalist guided programs.

For more information on Leave No Trace, visit: www.lnt.org.

Kayak fishing is the fastest growing segment of fishing in the United States and is being fueled by innovative new kayaks designed with fishermen in mind. With the advent of sit-on-top kayaks, as opposed to the typical "Eskimo-style" sit-inside kayaks, it was only a matter of time before people began to not only fish from kayaks, but rig them specifically for fishing, too.

People are drawn to kayak fishing because it's fun, simple, healthy, effective, exciting, and a relatively inexpensive way to get out on the water. The exercise

by Roger Hammer

Get Hooked on Kayak Fishing

and getting close to nature are key features, but other advantages are that kayaks are more stealthy than powerboats, and are even quieter and faster than boats equipped with electric trolling motors. Also, a kayak allows you to fish shallow areas that are not accessible by powerboats, and they are quieter in shallow areas where fish tend to be spookier.

Although there are people who fish from canoes, kayaks are faster and more seaworthy, and their lower profile makes them less affected by wind. Fishing kayaks typically come equipped with flush-mount rod holders behind the seat and a shallow well built into the stern for on-deck gear storage. Most fishing kayaks can be equipped with a foot-controlled rudder, which makes it easier to turn, paddle straight even in a quartering wind, and useful for controlling drift direction.

In 2006 Castellow Hammock Park received permission to purchase eight Wilderness Systems Tarpon 140 fishing kayaks, long considered to be one of the best fishing kayaks on the market. These were

equipped with two flush-mount rod holders, a Scotty's rod holder mounted in front of the paddler, a cushioned seat, and a double-bladed kayak paddle. I have been involved in fishing since I was a young boy, growing up in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and have been fishing from kayaks for the past five years. For the past 20 years I have been teaching a workshop at Castellow Hammock Park on backcountry fishing, which now includes fishing from canoes and kayaks in South Florida, so the new fishing kayaks have added an exciting new realm to the park's EcoAdventures excursions.

South Florida is the perfect venue for kayak fishing. Biscayne Bay lies to the east, the vast backcountry waters of Everglades National Park are to the west, and there is Florida Bay and the Atlantic Ocean as well. While most kayak fishing in South Florida is conducted in the relatively shallow waters of bays, many kayaks are well adapted for trolling for dolphin and billfish offshore along the edge of the Gulf Stream. Once you see how much fun kayak fishing can be, you might get hooked.

"People are drawn to kayak fishing because it's fun, simple, healthy, effective, exciting, and a relatively inexpensive way to get out on the water."



Photos courtesy of EcoAdventures



MIAMI-DADE PARKS ECOADVENTURES

If you have a spirit for adventure and would like to try kayak fishing with an expert guide, contact:

Monday – Friday, 9AM – 5PM
Phone: (305) 365-3018
or EcoAdventures@miamidade.gov
www.miamiecoadventures.org



Parks at a Glance

Volunteers and Parks staff demonstrate great P.R.I.D.E., Parks and Recreation Improving the Delivery of Excellence

More than 150 volunteers gathered for "Build Day" at West Perrine Park early in the morning on January 16 to build a new playground in one day, manufactured by Playworld Systems and courtesy of KaBOOM! and Kraft Foods Lunchables, for the children of the West Perrine community. There were volunteers of all ages from Hands on Miami, AmeriCorps, area schools, the West Perrine Park Seniors program, His Loving Hands Day Care Center, Commissioner Moss' district office, Miami-Dade County employees, and other local organizations.

Build Day was the culmination of two months of planning, which began on October 9, 2007 when Miami-Dade Park and Recreation was selected by KaBOOM! and Kraft Foods Lunchables to be one of six national community build projects to receive a new playground. On November 14, 2007, the children from the Miami-Dade Parks West Perrine Park and Colonial Drive Park after-school programs participated in Design Day, where they drew their ideal playgrounds and presented the drawings to KaBOOM!. The drawings were later submitted to Playworld Systems for consideration in the actual design of the playground.

Clean Marina Designations

by Edith Torres

In the summer of 2007, Pelican Harbor, Herbert Hoover at Homestead Bayfront Park and Black Point Marinas all received the certification of Clean Marina by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Clean Marina Designation is a public recognition by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that a facility uses sound environmental measures, encouraging good boating habits and clean water. These three marinas operated by Miami-Dade Parks' Marinas Division have reached this accomplishment through hard work and cooperation from the marina staff, park staff and patrons.

Stringent regulations instituted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection had to be met to receive the certification. These regulations included erecting signage which educated customers on how to properly wash their boats, fuel the engines and discharge their gray water. Signage was installed to educate marina patrons on how to properly maintain the public area around their vessels, keeping it free from tripping hazards from their electrical chords and wash-down hoses. Trash receptacles are also placed every 75 feet on each pier.

In addition, a crisis management manual was written for each marina to supplement the marina's operations manual. It contains 20 sections that detail incidents that can occur in a marina environment on any given day and what to do if an incident occurs. Examples of content include what to do in case of a boating accident, boat fire, fuel spill and storm threat.

Matheson Hammock Marina is in the process of completing its requirements and should receive its certification in the fall.

Black Point Marina



Homestead Marina



Pelican Harbor

HAULOVER DUNE RESTORATION

by Joe Maguire

IN THE 90 MILE STRETCH FROM MIAMI BEACH TO JUPITER THERE ARE ONLY THREE PARKS WITH MORE THAN 5,000 FEET OF CONTINUOUS, UNDEVELOPED BEACH FRONT; HAULOVER PARK IN MIAMI-DADE, JOHN U. LLOYD STATE PARK IN BROWARD, AND J.D. MACARTHUR STATE PARK IN PALM BEACH COUNTY. HAULOVER WAS MIAMI-DADE'S FOURTH PARK, ESTABLISHED IN 1936. IT HAS 6,900 FEET OF BEACH FRONT AND DUNES, AND IS HOME TO THE COUNTY'S RENOWNED SEA TURTLE NESTING AND RELOCATION PROGRAM. POPULAR WITH BOATERS, FISHERMEN AND SUNBATHERS, THE PARK ATTRACTS MORE THAN 1,000,000 VISITORS ANNUALLY.

SAND DUNES

Sand dunes are extremely important in protecting coastlines by buffering land and property from salt water intrusion during storm surges. Dunes store sand and help replenish coastlines after erosion events. They were formed over the course of many hundreds of years. Depending on location, wind and wave forces, incredibly diverse systems of dunes, swales, wetlands, and forests formed on Florida's coastlines. Alas, over the last 100 years, almost all of these natural coastal features have been altered in the favor of development. Historically, Florida's shoreline was not constrained by bulkheads, jetties, canal cuts, or roads. Because so much of South Florida's natural shoreline and dunes have been altered, the natural process of dune recovery after storms cannot occur. The remaining beaches and dunes

must be periodically renourished by man after erosion. The sand dunes at Haulover were created about 25 years ago to mimic the natural dune system that once occurred on the sand barrier island in northeast Miami-Dade County.

ALL OVER HAULOVER

Beach and dunes at Haulover were renourished in the 1980's, but by 2000, they needed a make-over. Unfortunately, Haulover's dunes had been overtaken by an exotic plant from the South Pacific: Naupaka



(*Scaevola taccada*). This plant is undesirable because it shades out the diverse native flora that should exist on dunes. While our native Inkberry (*Scaevola plumieri*) is a knee-high shrub, the exotic Naupaka forms dense thickets more than 15' tall that obscure ocean views and beach breezes!

Restoring natural vegetation at Haulover was done in two phases. First, in 2002, we selected a 1,600 foot stretch immediately south of the existing lifeguard center. The

thickets of exotic Naupaka were removed by crews from Parks and Recreation's Natural Areas Management Division. With much planning and volunteer assistance from the United Way, we staged the "All Over Haulover" event on August 15, 2002. More than 700 volunteers installed 4,200 native dune plants on the dunes that had been cleared of exotic Naupaka in one day! The area dominated by one exotic species was replaced with 10 native dune plant species.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

We knew that an extremely rare plant, Curtiss' Hoarypea (*Tephrosia angustissima* var. *curtissii*) also occurred in the restoration area. Thanks to our partners at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, this plant had been surveyed and mapped. In 2000, between 40 and 50 plants had been found. Once the dunes were cleared of the exotic Naupaka, by 2004, the number of Curtiss' Hoarypea had exploded to more than 1,150 plants! We believe that removal of the Naupaka stimulated

AFTER

photo courtesy of
Natural Areas Management



GRAND OPENING FESTIVAL

March 14, 2008
7pm – 10pm
FREE

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The place to
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MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Call 305-755-7848, or 305-755-7980(TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days advance notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.

Hoarypea seeds that had been in the sand for 20 years or more! The population of many other native dune plants, such as Beach Star and Bay Bean, also increased once they were released from the shade of the nasty Naupaka!

PHASE 2

In 2002, the Department was awarded a grant from the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program to improve beach access corridors and restore another 2,910 feet of dunes. The project began in the spring of 2005. In this phase, instead of removing the exotic Naupaka by hand, we contracted a Brontosaurus to do the job. The Brontosaurus is a drum or flail mower attached to the arm of a track hoe. What would have taken weeks for a hand crew, the “Bronto” handled in about four days!

The plants that were installed in Phase 2 were the species that thrived in the Phase 1 plantings. Park staff installed over 9,200 plants in the area cleared by the Bronto. Twelve species were used including sea oats, beach sunflower, inkberry, wild sage, and saw palmetto. In both dune restoration areas, crews from Natural Areas Management conduct annual follow-up treatments to prevent the re-establishment of exotic Naupaka and other undesirable plants.

BEACH CLUSTERVINE

Beach Clustervine (*Jacquemontia reclinata*) was listed as a federally endangered species in 1993. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden has been working on the recovery of this rare coastal plant species. *Jacquemontia* only exists on coastal dunes from Miami-Dade to West Palm Beach. A key element in the recovery plan for *Jacquemontia* is to establish new populations of this species on protected dunes in its natural range. Fairchild biologists planted 143 and 324 plants in Phase 1 and Phase 2, respectively. More than 90% of the *Jacquemontia* that were outplanted have survived.

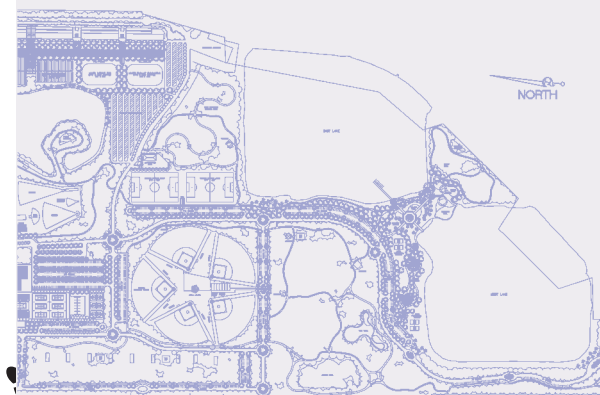
progress report...

Miami-Dade Parks Planning & Development is responsible for all steps in acquiring, developing and maintaining the 259 parks in the Department’s inventory. Progress Report is a recurring article that will feature construction and capital projects occurring in the Miami-Dade Parks system.

FEATURED PROGRAM

Greenways

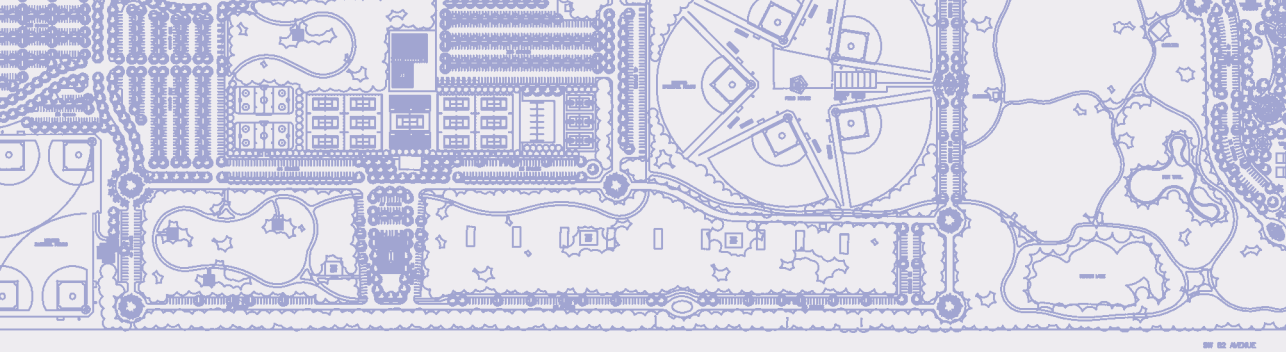
Miami-Dade Parks is one of the major participants in developing greenways in Miami-Dade County. Greenways are the network of bike paths/trails planned to support alternative transportation and, for Park & Recreation, connectivity between residents and recreation. Greenways are funded through multiple sources, including local funding, such as the Building Better Communities (BBC) General Obligation Bond (GOB), and federal funding, such as the Surface Transportation Enhancement Program. Park & Recreation is currently responsible for the development of greenways valued at over \$23.2 million: GOB funding, programmed over a 15-year period dating from voter approval in November 2004, totals over \$11.2 million; federal funding, programmed over a 5-year period by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), totals over \$12 million.



Miami-Dade Parks currently has funds to develop the following trails:

- Black Creek Trail**
 Extending from the Black Point Park & Marina to the planned Krome Trail, Black Creek Trail will provide access to major Park properties including Miami Metrozoo, Larry & Penny Thompson Park and the planned West Kendall District Park, to the South Dade Government Center and to other trails such as the South Dade Busway bike path. Approximately \$8.2 million of funding is currently programmed for development of the trail.
- Biscayne Trail**
 Extending from Old Cutler Road south to Biscayne National Park/Homestead Bayfront Park and west to Everglades National Park, Biscayne Trail will connect the County’s two national parks through Florida City and Homestead. Approximately \$4.5 million of funding is currently programmed for development of the trail.
- Snake Creek Trail**
 Extending from Oleta River State Park to Dolphins Stadium and future planned trails to the west, Snake Creek Trail will provide access to Greynolds Park and connection to Haulover Park, extends through North Miami Beach and Miami Gardens, and includes improvements to the crossing at I-95. Approximately \$7.3 million of funding is currently programmed for the trail.
- Ludlam Trail**
 Extending from Miami International Airport to Dadeland, Ludlam Trail, planned for the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway alignment, will provide access to A.D. “Doug” Barnes Park, and connection to the M-Path. Approximately \$2.7 million of funding is currently programmed for development of the trail.





Additionally, Miami-Dade Parks has future funding of \$0.5 million for the Snapper Creek Trail, and is studying other needs for trails and will work to partner with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Miami-Dade Public Works Department, Miami-Dade Transit, the MPO, municipalities and community organizations to pursue the goal of connecting people and places.

NOTE: The current funding is not sufficient to fully-develop the named trails. Impediments to development are known to exist, such as the availability of the FEC

corridor for purchase for development of the Ludlam Trail, and the high expected cost.

FEATURED MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT
Ives Estate Youth Ballfield Complex

Ives Estate Park is an approximately 95-acre District Park located at 20901 NE 16th Avenue in Commission District 1. The Park is bounded on the north by the County line, on the east by I-95 and on the west by Dr.

Looking for something to do this weekend?

Come to the heart of Miami at Miami-Dade County Auditorium...

Sunday, March 2, 2008
3pm
Sociedad Pro Arte Grateli
Tickets: \$13-\$36
presents Festival de la Cancion, an afternoon of traditional Cuban music, boleros, sons, and much more.

Saturday, March 8, 2008
8pm
Sunday, March 9, 2008
3pm
Ballet Etudes: Giselle
Tickets: \$20-\$60
This full-length production of Giselle with guest stars from New York City Ballet and full corps de ballet is not to be missed!

Saturday, March 15, 2008
8pm
Denisse de Kalafe in Concert
Tickets: \$34-\$75
FUNDarte and Miami-Dade County Auditorium present this dynamic Brazilian singer for her first concert in Miami.

Saturday, March 29, 2008
8pm
Luisa Maria Guell with the Florida Chamber Orchestra
Tickets: \$13-\$68
Born in Cuba, Grammy-nominated Luisa Maria Güell brings her incredible voice and intense soul to perform in Spanish, French and English.

Saturday, April 12, 2008
8pm
Orchestra Miami en concerto with Nestor Torres
Tickets: \$30-\$60
En Concierto con Nestor Torres features the talent and artistry of Miami's own Latin Grammy winning flautist Nestor Torres.

2901 West Flagler Street
For more information:
(305) 547-5414 or
www.ticketmaster.com

Michael Krop High School. The Youth Ballfield Complex project is the first major development project at the Park, a former municipal landfill. The project includes a large field center, lighted parking, two lighted baseball fields, one lighted soccer field and walkways. With a total budget of \$6.4 million funded through the Safe Neighborhood Parks (SNP) Bond Program, Capital Outlay Reserve funds and Park Impact Fee funds, the ongoing project provides the first major recreational elements of those planned for the Park. The Park is planned to include an Adult Sports Complex (softball and soccer fields), courts (basketball and tennis) and a large recreation center. The Youth Ballfield Complex is expected to be dedicated in spring 2008.

FEATURED PARK ACQUISITION
Miami-Dade County Regional Soccer Park

Park & Recreation has completed the acquisition of the West Dade Soccer Park. The property was acquired from Miami-Dade Department of Solid Waste Management (SWM), and is located at NW 87th Avenue and NW 62nd Street in Commission District 12. Park & Recreation acquired 33.57 acres, and will also manage 13.76 acres

for SWM. The 47.33 acre property is planned to be developed as a Single Purpose Park with a major soccer complex. The acquisition was funded from Park Impact Fees. Environmental assessment of the property is being initiated, and the Park is expected to enter the planning phase during Fiscal Year 2008. The Department will work with community and governmental organizations to secure the funding needed to develop the Park. The cost and schedule for development will be identified during the planning process.



**Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center
at Tropical Park
7900 SW 40th Street
Miami, Florida, USA 33155**

www.miamicattleshow.com

Call (305)755-7848 or (305)755-7980 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days advance notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.



(NOTE: Dates and times are subject to change.
Events and cancellations or call prior to attending.)

Check the Parks website for added events and cancellations or call prior to attending.)

▶ **MAR 7, 7 PM**
FEAST WITH THE BEASTS
 \$175 for Feaster tickets, \$500 for Beastkeeper tickets. Stroll the Zoo grounds while enjoying tastes from more than 35 of Miami's finest restaurants, full open bars, animal encounters and live entertainment. For more information contact Joseph Castro at (305) 255-5551 ext. 117 or jcastro@zsf.org

» **MAR 2, 3 PM**
FESTIVAL DE LA CANCION
 \$13 - \$36. Enjoy an afternoon of traditional Cuban music, boleros, sons, etc.
 Presented by Sociedad Pro Arte Grateli
 Miami-Dade County Auditorium
 2901 West Flagler St.
 (305) 547-5414

▶ **MAR 7 – 9, 8 AM – 6 PM**
DAY OUT WITH THOMAS
 \$18/Person (under 2 free). 25-minute Train Ride with Thomas, Live Musical Entertainment, Imagination Station, Coloring Activities, Tattoo Booth and much more!
 Gold Coast Railroad Museum
 12450 SW 152nd St.
 (866) 468-7630
www.goldcoast-railroad.org

► **MAR 3, 8 AM – 9 PM**
WHAF HORSE SHOW
 Free to spectators.
 Tropical Park Equestrian Center
 7900 SW 40th St.
 (786) 312-4872

» **MAR 8, 7:30 – 10:30 AM**
BIRD WALK
Free with admission: \$7/Adults;
\$5/Children (ages 4-14). Join a
naturalist guide in search of some of
the Deering Estate's estimated 170
perennial and migratory bird species.
Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668

▶ **MAR 6, 7 – 9 PM**
NITE HIKE
Free with admission: \$7/Adults;
\$5/Children (ages 9-14). Experience
the woods and it's wildlife as it comes
to life at night.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
(305) 235-1668

visit our website at
www.miamidade.gov/parks



» **MAR 8, 9 AM – 12 PM**
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Help contribute toward the restoration of these unique plant communities. Kendall Indian Hammocks Park 11345 SW 79th St. (305) 257-0933 ext 227

» **MAR 8, 9 AM – 12 PM**
SATURDAY MORNING KID'S CAMP: "IT'S A FISHY WORLD"

\$30/Child (ages 6-10); \$10 one-time annual camp registration fee. Children will learn all about the biology, life cycles and natural history of fish. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 8 – APR 12, 10 AM – 12 PM (SAT)**
INTRODUCTION TO PASTELS CLASS

\$150. Students will learn about the pastel medium, proper materials, and color analysis. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 8 / JUN 7 / SEP 13, 10 AM – 5 PM**
PROPAGATION

Instructor: Chris Rollins
Fee: \$40. Learn the methods utilized in producing tropical fruit trees: how to plant, seed, air layer and graft. Participants will receive a tree to graft and take home. Fruit and Spice Park 24801 SW 187th Ave. (305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **MAR 8, 8 PM / MAR 9, 3 PM**
GISELLE

\$20 - \$60. Ballet Etudes and Miami-Dade County Auditorium present the full length production of Giselle with guest stars from New York City Ballet and full corps de ballet. Miami-Dade County Auditorium 2901 West Flagler St. (305) 547-5414

» **MAR 9, 8 – 11 AM**
ECOADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER - CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR

\$25/Adults; \$15/Children (ages 9-14). Canoeists will experience the beauty of Biscayne Bay as they make their way to Chicken Key Island. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 10 – APR 14, 6 PM – 8 PM (MON)**
INTRODUCTION TO ACRYLICS CLASS

\$150. Students will complete two acrylic paintings inspired by the natural surroundings of the Deering Estate. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 14, 7 PM – 10 PM**
PALMETTO MINI GOLF COURSE GRAND OPENING FESTIVAL

Free. Live music & entertainment. Power 96, contest & prizes. Fun for all ages. 9300 SW 152nd St. (305) 238-2922

» **MAR 14 – 16, 8 AM – 6 PM**
DAY OUT WITH THOMAS

\$18/Person (under 2 free). 25-minute Train Ride with Thomas, Live Musical Entertainment, Imagination Station, Coloring Activities, Tattoo Booth and much more! Gold Coast Railroad Museum 12450 SW 152nd St. (866) 468-7630
www.goldcoast-railroad.org

» **MAR 15 – APR 6**
REFLECTIONS ON MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS

Free. Presented with the Historical Museum of South Florida, this exhibit explores the tireless efforts of Marjory Stoneman Douglas. An opening reception on MAR 15, 10 AM - 5 PM, will include readings from Douglas' 1947 best seller, The Everglades: River of Grass. Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women's History Gallery The Women's Park 10251 W. Flagler St. (305) 480-1717

» **MAR 15 & 16, 8 AM – 12 AM**
FLORIDA PASO FINO HORSE SHOW

Free to spectators. Tropical Park Equestrian Center 7900 SW 40th St. (786) 797-5784

» **MAR 15, 9 AM – 12 PM**
SATURDAY MORNING KID'S CAMP: "FROM SEED TO FRUIT: PLANT LIFE"

\$30/Child (ages 6-10); \$10 one-time annual camp registration fee. Students will learn all about plants, take a short hike through the natural areas, and plant a specimen to take home and watch it develop from a seed to a plant. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 15, 10 AM – 2 PM**
BAMBOO DAY

Instructor: Daniel Holmes
\$45. Learn to grow and cultivate different varieties of Bamboo and their uses. Includes a tour of the Park's 70 varieties of bamboo, the largest public collection of tropical bamboo in the United States. Fruit and Spice Park 24801 SW 187th Ave. (305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **MAR 15, 10 AM – 12 PM**
BUTTERFLY WALK

Free with admission – \$7/Adults; \$5/Children (ages 4-14). Explore various habitats of the Estate while finding and identifying numerous butterfly species. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 15, 8 PM**
DENISSE DE KALAFE IN CONCERT

\$34 - \$75. For the first time in Miami, the Brazilian singer comes to the stage to present her new record, where she intends, in her own words, to serenade love once again. Presented by FUNDarte and Miami-Dade County Auditorium. Miami-Dade County Auditorium 2901 West Flagler St. (305) 547-5414

» **MAR 15, 8 PM**
LES ECAILLES DE LA MEMOIRE (THE SCALES OF MEMORY) URBAN BUSH WOMEN & COMPAGNIE JANT-BI

\$5 - \$15. Presented in partnership with Miami-Dade College, the seven women of Urban Bush Women and seven men of Jant-Bi collaborate to create a work that views the importance of landscapes and how we internalize them. Joseph Caleb Auditorium 5400 NW 22nd Ave. (305) 636-2350

» **MAR 16, 2 – 4 PM (ARRIVE AT 1:30 PM)**
ECOADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE BAY CRUISE ON THE PELICAN ISLAND SKIPPER

\$35/Person. Take a relaxing trip on the "Pelican Island Skipper" Pontoon Boat and discover South Florida's nature and history. Space is limited. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 17, 10:30 AM**
MAGIC CITY MONDAY

\$3/Child (Chaperones admitted free). This performance features the PAVAC Players from Miami Northwestern High School. Joseph Caleb Auditorium 5400 NW 22nd Ave. (305) 636-2350

» **MAR 19, 7 – 11 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER - MOONLIGHT CANOE TOUR

\$35/Person (ages 18 and older). Canoeists will enjoy the moonlit beauty of Biscayne Bay as they make their way to Chicken Key. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 20, 8 PM**
ONE NIGHT STAND CABARET SERIES

\$5/Person. Mix and mingle with other artists, perform and develop your talent, or just sit back, relax and enjoy the entertainment. Joseph Caleb Auditorium 5400 NW 22nd Ave. (305) 636-2350

» **MAR 22, 9 AM – 12 PM**
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Free. Help contribute toward the restoration of these unique plant communities. Camp Matecumbe Pineland 11400 SW 137 Ave. (305) 257-0933 ext 227

» **MAR 22, 10 AM – 12 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER - BIKE TOUR

\$15; \$10 ride your own bike. Ride along the trails and explore the scenic landscapes while learning about the Estate's historic past. Meet at the Visitor's Center at 9:45 a.m. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 22, 9 AM – 12 PM**
SATURDAY MORNING KID'S CAMP: "MOSES ARE PICKY CREATURES"

\$30/Child (ages 6-10); \$10 one-time annual camp registration fee. Children will explore the dark and wet sections of the Deering Estate's natural areas to find these amazing organisms. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 22 & 23, 11 AM – 4 PM**
THE GREAT MIAMI METROZOO
EGG SAFARI

It's a magical day at Miami Metrozoo with continuous egg safaris for kids 12 and under at the Picnic and Special Events fields. Other activities include: face painting, arts & crafts, a bounce house, rock climbing, water tag, Radio Disney AM 990, the Easter Bunny and more!

» **MAR 23, 8 – 11 AM**
ECOADVENTURES:
DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER -
CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR

\$25/Adults; \$15/Children (ages 9-14). Canoeists will experience the beauty of Biscayne Bay as they make their way to Chicken Key Island. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 28, 8 – 11 AM**
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Free. Help contribute toward the restoration of these unique plant communities. Ned Glenn Preserve SW 188 St. and 87 Ave. (305) 257-0933 ext 227

» **MAR 29, 9 AM – 12 PM**
SATURDAY MORNING KID'S CAMP:
"ROCKS & SOIL: GEOLOGY"

\$30/Child (ages 6-10); \$10 one-time annual camp registration fee. The main focus of this program is to introduce participants to the different types of rocks, soil formation, Karsts topography and the role limestone plays in our lives. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **MAR 29, 8 PM**
LUISA MARIA GÜELL WITH THE
FLORIDA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

\$13 - \$68. Grammy-nominated Luisa Maria Güell brings her incredible voice and intense soul to perform in Spanish, French and English. Miami-Dade County Auditorium 2901 West Flagler St. (305) 547-5414

» **MAR 30, 11 AM – 6 PM**
4TH ANNUAL DEERING SEAFOOD
FESTIVAL ON THE BAY
PRESENTED BY GOLDEN
RULE SEAFOOD

\$15/Adults; \$5/Children (ages 4-12); Free for Foundation Members. Enjoy Florida's freshest seafood, the magical sights and sounds of the Bahamian Junkanoo Band and Prince Dragon, scenic boat rides on Biscayne Bay, professional cooking demos and boundless fun at the Little Shrimp Kids Zone. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 263 www.deeringestate.com

» **MAR 30 & 31, 11 AM – 11 PM**
PASO FINO OWNERS
GROUP HORSE SHOW

Free to spectators. Tropical Park Equestrian Center 7900 SW 40th Ave. (305) 444-1914

» **MAR 31 – APR 4, 9 AM –**
4 PM (EARLY DROP OFF
AND LATE PICK UP IS
AVAILABLE FOR AN
ADDITIONAL FEE)
SPRING KIDS' CAMP

\$150; One-time \$10 annual registration fee. The "Spring Nature Adventures" session is a hands-on, interactive day camp where children learn about the natural environment and early South Florida history. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 5 & 6, 8 AM – 6 PM**
SOUTH FLORIDA REINING
HORSE ASSOCIATION

Free to spectators. Tropical Park Equestrian Center 7900 SW 40th St. (305) 218-2770

» **APR 5, 12, & 19,**
10 AM – 2 PM
ESSENTIALS OF
BACKYARD HORTICULTURAL

Instructor: Chris Rollins \$25/Session. Part 1: climate soil & irrigation; Part 2: Pruning, fertilizing, and mulching; Part 3: disease, weed control, insects and chemicals. Fruit and Spice Park 24801 SW 187th Ave. (305) 247-5727 www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **APR 5, 2 PM**
ARCHITECTURE TOUR

Free with admission: \$7/Adults; \$5/Children (ages 4-14). Discover the architectural features of some of South Florida's earliest buildings. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668

» **APR 10 – MAY 15,**
6:30 – 7:30 PM (SAT)
PILATES

\$60. Focus on improving flexibility and strength with controlled movements that engage your body and mind with instructor Celia Maluf. Class size is limited. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 11, 7 PM**
NOCHES TROPICALES FEATURING
CARNAVAL DU BRAZIL

Free. Tropical Park 7900 SW 40th St. (305) 271-0812

» **APR 11 – MAY 25,**
10 AM – 5 PM
IMAGES OF EMPOWERMENT

Free. Artwork by participants from the Museum of Contemporary Art's nationally acclaimed outreach program for at-risk girls, Women on the Rise! will be featured. Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women's History Gallery The Women's Park 10251 W. Flagler St. (305) 480-1717

» **APR 12, 7:30 – 10:30 AM**
BIRD WALK

Free with admission: \$7/Adults; \$5/Children (ages 4-14). Join a naturalist guide in search of some of the Deering Estate's estimated 170 perennial and migratory bird species. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668

» **APR 12 & 13, 8 AM**
HERITAGE HORSE SHOW

Free to spectators. Tropical Park Equestrian Center 7900 SW 40th St. (954) 347-1799

» **APR 12, 9 AM – 12 PM**
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Free. Help contribute toward the restoration of these unique plant communities. Kendall Indian Hammocks Park 11345 SW 79th St. (305) 257-0933 ext 227

» **APR 12, 9 AM – 12 PM**
SATURDAY MORNING KID'S CAMP:
"ASTRONOMERS & PLANETS"

\$30/Child (ages 6-10); \$10 one-time annual camp registration fee. The study of our planet begins with the study of astronomy, which help us answer several questions about the origin of the universe and planet Earth. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 12 – MAY 17,**
10 AM – 12 PM (SAT)
INTRODUCTION TO WATERCOLORS

\$150. Learn the basic techniques of water colors and paper preparation. Observe demonstrations of color use and learn how to achieve glowing colors and highlight effects. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 12 & 13**
"AFFAIR EN PLEIN AIR" –
A TWO DAY JURIED ART EVENT

Free with admission – Adults \$7; Children (ages 4-14) \$5. The Deering Estate at Cutler and the GroveHouse Artists will host a two-day "En Plein Air" (in the open air) painting event. Artists will be creating their artwork on the grounds of the Estate and will submit their works for judging and awards. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 12 – MAY 17,**
10 AM – 12 PM (SAT)
INTRODUCTION TO
CLAY SCULPTING

\$150. Learn the basic clay modeling, mold making and cold casting techniques. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 12 – MAY 17,**
10:30 AM – 12 PM (SAT)
TAI CHI CLASSES

\$60. Apply your internal power with slow motion routines that promote health and longevity with instructor J. Morris. Space is limited, advanced registration is required. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 12, 4 PM**
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
CONCERT SERIES

Free. Featuring Brenda Alford and Friends and Othello Molineaux, this concert offers family-friendly entertainment and activities. Colonial Drive Park 10750 SW 156 Ter. (305) 693-6236

» **APR 12, 7 PM**
MIAMI FC VS. CHARLESTON BATTERY
\$5 - \$25. Soccer game.
Tropical Park Stadium
7900 SW 40th St.
(305) 377-2700

» **APR 13, 27, 8 - 11 AM**
**ECOADVENTURES:
DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER -
CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR**
Adults \$25; Children (ages 9-14) \$15.
Canoeists will experience the beauty
of Biscayne Bay as they make their
way to Chicken Key Island.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext 233

» **APR 14 - 19**
MIAMI HIP HOP ARTS FESTIVAL
\$5 - \$15. This first annual festival
highlights and encourages the
positive and artistic merits of Hip Hop
featuring the hottest local and national
Hip Hop artists in theater, spoken
word, dance, visual arts, and music.
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
5400 NW 22nd Ave.
(305) 636-2350

» **APR 15 - MAY 20, 6 - 7:30 PM
(TUE) / APR 16 - MAY 21,
10 AM - 11:30 AM (WED)**
YOGA CLASSES
\$60. Learn how to relax, meditate and
relieve stress during this six-week
course with instructor M. Shulman.
Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 15 - MAY 15,
10 AM - 5 PM**
**SOUTH MIAMI MAGNET SCHOOL
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**
Free with admission to the Estate -
\$7/Adults; \$5/Children (ages 4-14).
This annual exhibit features work
created by middle school students
in our community.
Visitor's Center
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.

» **APR 17, 8 PM**
**ONE NIGHT STAND
CABARET SERIES**
\$5/Person. Mix and mingle with other
artists, perform and develop your
talent, or just sit back, relax and
enjoy the entertainment.
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
5400 NW 22nd Ave.
(305) 636-2350

» **APR 18, 8 PM**
**ORCHESTRA MIAMI EN CONCERTO
WITH NESTOR TORRES**
\$30 - \$60. Orchestra Miami and
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
present the talent and artistry of
Miami's own Latin Grammy
winning flautist Nestor Torres.
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
2901 W. Flagler St.
(305) 547-5414

» **APR 19, 8 AM**
WHAF HORSE SHOW
Free to spectators.
Tropical Park Equestrian Center
7900 SW 40th St.
(786) 312-4872

» **APR 19, 9 AM - 12 PM**
**SATURDAY MORNING KID'S CAMP:
"MOON & STARS"**
\$30/Child (ages 6-10); \$10 one-
time annual camp registration fee.
Children will learn about the
physicality of these bodies through
a series of hands-on activities
including arts and crafts projects.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 19, 9 AM - 12 PM**
VOLUNTEER WORKDAY
Free. Help contribute toward
the restoration of these unique
plant communities.
Baynanza
Various locations
(305) 372-6784

» **APR 19, 10 AM - 12 PM**
BUTTERFLY WALK
Free with admission - Adults \$7;
Children (ages 4-14) \$5. Explore
various habitats of the Estate while
finding and identifying numerous
butterfly species.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 19 & 20, 10 AM - 5 PM**
**HELICONIA PALM
AND FLOWER SHOW**
Admission: \$6 (children under 12
admitted free). Large exhibit of
Heliconia blossoms on display
and a multitude of plants for sale.
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **APR 19, 7 PM**
**MIAMI FC VS. MONTREAL IMPACT
SOCCER GAME**
\$5 - \$25.
Tropical Park Stadium
7900 SW 40th St.
(305) 377-2700

» **APR 20, 4 - 6 PM
(ARRIVE AT 3:30 PM)**
**ECOADVENTURES:
DEERING ESTATE BAY CRUISE ON
THE PELICAN ISLAND SKIPPER**
\$35/Person. Take a relaxing trip on
the "Pelican Island Skipper" Pontoon
Boat and discover South Florida's
nature and history.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 21, 7 - 11 PM**
**ECOADVENTURES:
DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER -
MOONLIGHT CANOE TOUR**
\$35/Person (ages 18 and older).
Canoeists will enjoy the moonlit beauty
of Biscayne Bay as they make their
way to Chicken Key.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 21, 10:30 AM**
MAGIC CITY MONDAY
\$3/Child (Chaperones admitted free).
This Earth Day celebration will feature
Earth Man and the Earth Project.
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
5400 NW 22nd Ave.
(305) 636-2350

» **APR 25 - 27**
WAVE SUPER SHOW
Haulover Marina
10800 Collins Ave.
(305) 947-3525

» **APR 26, 10 AM - 12 PM**
**ECOADVENTURES: DEERING
ESTATE AT CUTLER - BIKE TOUR**
\$15; \$10 Ride your own bike along
the trails and explore the scenic
landscapes while learning about the
Estate's historic past. Meet at the
Visitor's Center at 9:45 a.m.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 26, 9 AM - 12 PM**
**SATURDAY MORNING KID'S CAMP:
"BUTTERFLY EXPEDITION"**
\$30/Child (ages 6-10); \$10 one-time
annual camp registration fee. The
Deering Estate hosts an amazing
collection of 48 species of these
wonderful insects including some
rare and endangered species.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 26 - MAY 31,
10 AM - 12 PM (SAT)**
INTRODUCTION TO PASTELS CLASS
\$150. Students will learn about the
medium of pastel, appropriate materials
and color analysis.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
305-235-1668 ext. 233

» **APR 28 - JUN 9 (NO CLASS
ON 5/26), 6 - 8 PM (MON)**
**INTRODUCTION TO
ACRYLICS CLASS**
\$150. Students will complete two
acrylic paintings inspired by the natural
surroundings of the Deering Estate.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
305-235-1668 ext. 233

Ongoing Activities

» **SATURDAYS, 2 - 5 PM**
GOAL BALL TEAM
Free. Sport designed for individuals
with blindness or visual impairments
interested in participating and learning
a team sport.
NFL Yet Center / Gwen Cherry Park
7090 N. W. 22nd Ave.
(305) 380-9106

» **DAILY, 10:30 AM & 3 PM**
DEERING HISTORIC HOUSE TOURS
Free with admission: Adults \$7;
Children (ages 4-14) \$5. This tour
highlights the history surrounding the
Deering Estate at Cutler and the story
of Charles Deering.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
(305) 235-1668

» **DAILY, 12:30 PM**
NATURAL AREAS TOURS
Free with admission: Adults \$7;
Children (ages 4-14) \$5. Join a
Naturalist Guide and walk in the
footsteps of Florida's first peoples.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
(305) 235-1668

» **SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS,
10 AM - 3 PM**
KAYAK RENTALS
Adults \$10 per hour; Children (ages
9-15) \$8 per hour. Minimum 1 hour
rental. Includes kayaks, life vests,
paddles and a small dry bag. To rent
a kayak, you must be at least 21
years old. People between the ages
of 9 - 20 must be accompanied by an
adult or a legal guardian in the same
kayak. All rentals are subject to
weather and wind conditions.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **DAILY, 9 AM – 4 PM**

(YEAR-ROUND)

ECOADVENTURES:

CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER

\$5/Vehicle, \$10/Bus. Guided tours and educational programs are offered year round for all ages - from low tide marine beach and wading tours, to bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling and bicycling. Visit the center's exhibit room and aquariums with different recreated underwater habitats. 6767 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, (North Beach Entrance) (305) 361-6767

» **DAILY, 9:30 AM – 12 PM**

ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK'S KAYAK ADVENTURE

\$40/Adult, \$15/Child (Ages 9-14). Residents: \$35/Person, \$15/Child (Ages 9-14) Includes snorkeling gear rental. Kayak along the beautiful shallow waters of Key Biscayne and explore the protected areas of Bear Cut Preserve where land meets the sea. 6767 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, (North Beach Entrance) (305) 365-3018

» **DAILY, 10:30 AM & 3 PM**
DEERING HISTORIC TOURS

Free with admission: \$7/Adults; \$5/Children. This tour highlights the history surrounding the Deering Estate at Cutler and the story of Charles Deering. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. (305) 235-1668

» **DAILY, 12:30 PM**

NATURAL AREAS TOURS

Free with admission: \$7/Adults; \$5/Children. Join a Naturalist Guide and walk in the footsteps of Florida's first peoples. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72nd Ave. (305) 235-1668

» **DAILY, 10 AM – 5 PM**
FREE FLIGHT AVIARY

Encounter rare and exotic Asian birds close-up and in free flight. Watch them build their nests and care for their young at the American Bankers Family Aviary, Wings of Asia. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **DAILY, 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM**
BIRD FEEDINGS

Follow the bird keepers for fun and information while they go throughout the aviary feeding the birds at the American Bankers Family Aviary, Wings of Asia. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **DAILY, 9:30 AM – 5 PM**
INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Observe ducks swimming on top of and under the water with fish and turtles through the viewing glass of the indoor, air-conditioned Observation Center. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **DAILY, 9:30 AM – 5 PM**

DINOSAUR ENCOUNTERS

View a film showing the link between dinosaurs and birds at the Field Research Center, then search for the skeleton of a 40-foot-long carnivorous dinosaur in a mock fossil excavation dig pit. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **10 AM – 5 PM**
TOADSTOOL!

ToadStool features close encounters with small animals that live in naturalistic habitats at the Commercebank Children's Zoo. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **DAILY, 11 AM – 4 PM**
THE SAMBURU GIRAFFE FEEDING STATION

\$2. Feed our giraffes delicious veggie treats like romaine or iceberg lettuce, kale or collard greens. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 www.miamimetrozoo.com

PINE ROCKLAND GUIDED TOUR

Walk through this fire-dependent habitat that the gopher tortoise, great horned owl and the Florida panther call home. Learn about the county's largest remnant of the rare native pinelands that exists nowhere else on earth. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 255-5551 www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **DAILY, 1:30 PM WITH AN EXTRA SHOW AT 2:30 PM ON WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS**
DIEGO'S DISCOVERY DEN

At the Commercebank Children's Zoo, see Diego in his Discovery Den! Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **FRI & SAT, 6 PM – 9 AM (DURING SCHOOL YEAR)**
ZOO INN

Bring your youth group, scout troop, biology class or adult group to spend the night! In this sleeper program you will have a behind-the-scenes walking tour of the Zoo after dark and a special morning activity. Miami MetroZoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **SAT, 10 – 11 AM**

ECOADVENTURES: ARCH CREEK TRAIL TOURS

\$3/Person. Join a naturalist guided tour through a Tropical Hardwood Hammock where you will find an assortment of interesting plants native to South Florida. Arch Creek Museum 1855 NE 135 St. (305) 944-6111

» **SAT & SUN, 9 AM, 12 PM AND 2 PM**

ECOADVENTURES: BEAR CUT PRESERVE NATURE WALKS

\$3/Person. Enjoy a leisurely walk along one of the many trails of Bear Cut Preserve. Learn about butterflies, birds and the many plant and animal species that inhabit the coastal environments of South Florida. Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center 6767 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, (North Beach Entrance) (305) 361-6767 ext 112

» **SAT, SUN & HOL, 10 AM – 4 PM**

ECOADVENTURES: KAYAK RENTALS

Single or 2 Person Kayak: \$15/Hr. or \$30/3 Hrs.; Snorkeling Gear Rental: \$7/Daily. Fully equipped "sit on top" ocean kayak rentals and snorkeling equipment available. 6767 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, (North Beach Entrance) or Kayak Aquatic Concession located on the beach southeast of the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center. (305) 361-6767 ext 112 or (305) 365-3067

» **SUN, 9:30 AM – 1 PM**

ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK'S BAYSIDE CANOE ADVENTURE

\$40/Adult, \$15/Child (Ages 7-14). Residents: \$25/Person, \$15/Child (Ages 7-14). Explore this peaceful water wilderness where great blue herons, spotted eagle rays, upside down jellyfish, and green iguanas live among the mangrove fringes. Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center 6767 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, (North Beach Entrance) (305) 365-3018

» **SUN, 1 – 4 PM**

ECOADVENTURES:

CRANDON PARK'S KEY BISCAYNE BIKE ADVENTURE

\$25/Adult, \$15/Child (Ages 9-14). \$20 (Ride your own bike). Explore beautiful Key Biscayne as you bike along the streets and scenic paths of this historic barrier island. We'll also explore the nature trails of Bill Baggs State Park and enjoy breathtaking views of the Cape Florida Lighthouse. Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center 6767 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, (North Beach Entrance) (305) 365-3018

» **AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK HERITAGE TRAM TOURS

\$2/Adult, \$1/Children, minimum 10 people. Reservation Required. Learn about the island of Key Biscayne and its fascinating history from the Tequesta Indians to the pirates and pioneers. Tram rides also available upon request for birthday parties, corporate events and other special events. 6767 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, (North Beach Entrance) (305) 361-6767 ext 112

» **LAST WED OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 PM**

TROPICAL FRUIT & VEGETABLE SOCIETY OF THE REDLAND

Free tasting table, plant exchange and horticultural library and monthly guest speaker lecturing on tropical fruits & vegetables. Fruit and Spice Park 24801 SW 187 Ave. (305) 247-5727 www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **2ND THU OF THE MONTH,
7 PM**

SOUTH DADE GARDEN CLUB

In existence for 70 years, 55 years at the Park, the South Dade Garden Club is an opportunity to learn about gardening, and make some new friends.

Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **1ST WED OF THE MONTH,
7:30 PM**

REDLAND EVENING HERB SOCIETY

Enjoy learning about herbs and their uses.

Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

Upcoming Events

» **MAY 3, 10 AM – 5 PM**

HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAY

\$6/Person. This event will highlight the practical methods utilized to improve your health and well being.

Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **MAY 10, 10 AM – 6 PM**

CALABASH VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL

Free. Celebrating the visual arts with local artists in a day-long event that includes exhibitions, lectures, workshops, fashion shows and activities for children.

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
6161 NW 22nd Ave.
(305) 638-6771



» **MAY 11**

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Guests can taste appetizing dishes and desserts, tour the grounds and take in the lush natural beauty and grandeur of the Estate.

Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72nd Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext 233
www.deeringestate.org

» **MAY 15 – 18, 10 AM – 5 PM**

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL

AGRICULTURE & CATTLE SHOW

\$10/Person. Join us as we bring together cattle breeders from North America, South America and throughout the world in this first annual event.

Tropical Park Equestrian Center
7900 SW 40th St.
(305) 755-7800
www.miamicattleshows.com

» **MAY 16, 17 & 18,
9 AM – 5 PM**

**REDLAND INTERNATIONAL
ORCHID SHOW**

\$6/Person. The largest annual orchid show in the United States featuring over 50 booths of educational exhibits and orchid vendors. An American Orchid Society judged event.

Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **MAY 18, 11 AM – 6 PM**

**GREYNOLDS PARK LOVE-IN
FEATURING THE SPENCER
DAVIS GROUP**

\$6/Car. Take a journey back to the 1960s with folk music, beat poetry, and classic cars.

Greynolds Park
17530 W. Dixie Hwy.
(305) 945-3425
www.greynoldslovein.com

» **JUN 7**

**5TH ANNUAL BLUE WATER
FISHING CLASSIC**

All six Miami-Dade Parks Marinas.

A fishing tournament for amateur, professional and junior fishermen, this annual event attracts anglers from throughout Miami-Dade County and offers cash awards and prizes.

(305) 755-7939

» **JUN 14, 10 AM – 1 PM**

MANGO MANIA

Instructor: Chris Rollins

\$50/Person. It's everything you want to know about mangos; how to grow them, their insect and disease problems, recipes, and the many varieties.

Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **JUN 21, 1 – 3 PM**

LYCHEE & LONGAN WORKSHOP

Instructor: Chris Rollins

\$25/Person. Held during the Redland Summer Fruit Festival this workshop will cover the growing needs, problems, and different varieties of this revered Chinese fruit.

Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **JUN 21 & 22, 10 AM – 5 PM**

**REDLAND SUMMER
FRUIT FESTIVAL**

\$6 (children under 12 admitted free). This annual event showcases local agriculture, tropical fruits and vendor booths featuring local wines, food, and rare fruit samplings.

Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
(305) 247-5727
www.fruitandspicepark.org



“We did not inherit the land from our fathers, we are borrowing it from our children.”

– Amish proverb

